

Ain't Nothing Like Coming Home (Ruth 1:19-22)

Proposition: Every child of God can come back into a right relationship with God by following the three principals Naomi used to get back to her hometown of Bethlehem.

- I. **The Place She Aimed For** (Vs. 19a)
 - A. A Place of God's Adoration (Vs. 19a)
 - B. A Place of God's Attendance (Vs. 19a)
 - C. A Place of God's Abundance (Vs. 19a)
 - D. A Place of God's Assembly (Vs. 19a)
- II. **The Pronouncement She Admitted To** (Vs. 19b-21)
 - A. A Pronouncement of God's Restoration (Vs. 21b)
 - B. A Pronouncement of God's Recompense (Vs. 20-21)
- III. **The Period She Arrive In** (Vs. 22)
 - A. A Period of Forgiveness (Vs. 22e)
 - B. A Period of Fruitfulness (Vs. 22e)

Aint Nothing Like Coming Home (Ruth 1:19-22) I still remember the first time I came home from College when I was a freshman at Brevard in NC. I'd been gone from home for several months and I finally had the chance to come home. I was so excited to pull into the gravel drive way at mom and dad's house. I went from there straight to the Friday night High School football game! It may not have officially been home coming night but it was for me. All my friends and teachers were there. All asking me how things were going at school, how was basketball?

I felt at peace at place. Although Naomi's homecoming was not as joyous as mine, there is the sense from these few verses she was there again in her place! I'm sure she could agree w/ me there Aint Nothing Like Coming Home. Every child of God can come back into a right relationship w/ God by following the three principles Naomi used to get back to her town Bethlehem.

I. The Place She Craved For - VS 19

More than 10 years had passed, 10 years of sorrow + difficulty. And now we see her walk into Bethlehem. She is an illustration

of Soreans that has gotten away from God coming.

A. A Place of God's Adoration - Bethlehem is located in the region of Judah. The word Judah means praise or adoration. It is an area in which God was glorified, honored and revered. Naomi was now in a place where God was honored. God is not honored with

B. A Place of God's Attendance - In Vs 6, God had visited his people. She was returning to a place of God's presence. A place where once again she could experience God. When Sarah's heart ran contrary to God, he no longer enjoyed God's presence. He ran

C. A Place of God's Abundance - Bethlehem means the "House of Bread" God was once again giving his people bread. God was meeting the needs of his people. You can expect God to meet your needs when you are away from God. Matt 6:33, You can ^{back} claim it, for

D. A Place of God's Assembly - Bethlehem this house of Bread, was where God's people were. Where they gathered to feed off of God's provision. Those whose hearts were bound together by their common love for God. I see places in poems where for quite some time

II. The Pronouncement she Admitted To
(Vs 19-21) When Naomi came back into town the people were not uh-huh I told you so. Mowed = groaned. Is this Naomi.

1) ...not honored when we are in defiance of his commands, when we rebel against him. Oh how tragic it is when people that once loved the Lord and followed the Lord no longer live lives that bring glory to God. But how wonderful it is when God takes the broken pieces of a repentant heart and once again bring them to a place of honor and glory to God.

2) ...He ran from God. When we get away from God there is not only dishonor but distance. David was a man that dishonored God, but David was brought back in to relationship with God and could say Psalms 16:11 in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

3) ...some time a member of God's family worshiped God and sang to God and gave to God. Their place was never empty. But now they are nowhere to be found. They are out of fellowship with God and his people. But praise God for when he chastens on back into the assembly. When their hearts are renewed once again.

1) ...that even when she left God, He would not leave her.

2) "If you live for God down here, He will take you to heaven and crown you. But if you don't live for God, He will crown you down here and then take you to heaven."

3) ...talking about. You could stand and show scars of how God brought you back. There is a recompense for straying away from God!

Naomi = Pleasant, Mara = Bitter. ^{as results of being} Cinnamon 6:23

A. A Pronouncement of God's Restoration

vs 21b "brought me here again" She had been confronted by God. And God had brought her back to his place for her.

Num 32:23 "Be sure you will find you out" Here is one truth you can take to the bank: God brings his wayward children back to himself. If you belong to God, there is no place you can hide. Jonah hid in the belly of a great and found him and sent an R.V. (Repentance Vehicle) after him. Naomi Discovers that Even ①

B. A Pronouncement of God's Recompense

vs 20, 21. Yes God found her. Praise God. He brought her. Halleluiah. He restored her. Glory to God. But what a price tag. God knows how to get our attention. Like the old preacher said "if you like for God" There are three cranes in Moab that stand as a monument of God's chastening hand! The shepherds would take wayward sheep and break front legs carried them till they healed to keep them close to the shepherd.

Many of you know what I'm talking about ③

III The Period She Arrived in - (vs 22)

What a wonderful set of words "So Naomi Returned. She came home. Man & Dad are you wondering about the ... Then know the Law

Hell bring them back, when? Beginning of harvest

A. A Period of Forgiveness - In the Book of Leviticus we are told that the barley harvest took place at the time of Passover. It was a time of atonement when sacrificial blood for the sins of a nation was sprinkled on the mercy seat for the sins of a nation. Can you see here there, watching that sacrifice slaughter blood drained. She w/ tear filled eyes watches the priest go in w/ blood for her sin. Can you hear her shout with joy along with the host that the sacrifice is accepted. ³ Sinners rolled over.

B. A Period of Fruitfulness - It was also a time when the feast of First-fruits was observed. The first of the crops had come in. They would take a sheaf of wheat and wave it before the Lord as an offering of thanks. Giving for not only what was harvested but what would be harvested in the days and months to come. What we can see here is that we can still be fruitful. You may have failed and been broken and brought back bitter & ³ sorrowful. But God is saying ^{you can} you can

TV Closing - Some of you here today could echo Kirkpatrick's hymn, "Oh wander far away from God." Come here today Hosea 6:1

- 1) ...It could be easily missed. It was the time the first grain was harvested. It was observed during the month of Abib, which mean "green ears." It was a time when certain feasts were observed.

- 2) Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

- 3) ...God is saying is that you can still be fruitful. God can take your barren lifeless rebellion and turn it into a productive fruitful life.

- 4) Hosea 6:1 Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.